What is claimed is:

1.   A check comprising:

     sheet material;

     means defining at least one field of pre-printed information on the sheet material; and

     means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of the pre-printed information contained in the at least one field.

2.   A check comprising:

     sheet material;

     at least one encoded symbol disposed on the sheet material; and

     means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of the encoded symbol.

3.   A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of pre-printed information contained in at least one field of a check, the method comprising:

     storing the apriori reference image quality data on the check.

4.   A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data includes data which is representative of the number of fields of pre-printed information on the check.

5.   A method according to claim 4, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of content of the pre-printed information contained in the field.

6. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of type of print contained in the field.

7. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes format data which is representative of format of the pre-printed information in the field.

8. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of physical dimensions of the field.

9. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of location of the field.

10. A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of at least one encoded symbol disposed on a check, the method comprising:

  storing the apriori reference image quality data which is representative of the at least one characteristic of the encoded symbol on the check.

11. A method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document other than currency, the method comprising:

  storing on the financial document apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of the financial document;

  receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

retrieving the stored apriori reference image quality data;

comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the image data which is representative of the image of the financial document; and

providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the apriori reference image quality data with the image data.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one characteristic of the financial document includes a characteristic of the pre-printed information contained in at least one field of the financial document.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one characteristic of the financial document includes a characteristic of at least one encoded symbol on the financial document.